

**Claims**

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [21] 41 in which the summary information includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 in which the displaying of the summary information includes displaying the text description in a text description window.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [21] 41 in which the displaying of the summary information includes displaying the display imagery in a preview display window.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [21] 41 in which the selected programming is transmitted from the central control node when the programming is selected by the viewer and the video segment includes the transmitted selected programming.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [21] 41 in which the summary information includes a text description and display imagery relating to the program selected by the viewer.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [31] 42 in which the summary information further includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer and at least some of the images are video segments.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 in which the text description and video segment are displayed in, respectively, a text description window and a preview display window that are displayed adjacent each other.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [31] 42 in which the programming summary information is displayed simultaneously with the programming guide.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [31] 42 in which the programming summary information displayed for the viewer includes an icon indicating a predetermined characteristic of the selected programming.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 in which the predetermined characteristic of the selected programming is selectively cued by the viewer.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [37] 43 in which the summary information includes a text description relating to the programming available to the viewer and the text description is displayed simultaneously with the selected program and the programming guide in response to a user selection of a currently available program.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 21] In an interactive televideo system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include

video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying summary information chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available, comprising:

providing programming information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, the programming information including at least an identity for each of a plurality of available programs;

providing summary information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and comprises display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;

storing the programming information at the interactive station controller;

storing the summary information at the interactive station controller;

accessing the programming information and displaying the programming information in the programming guide on the video display;

obtaining a user selection indication corresponding to programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide, wherein there are multiple programming choices available for selection, including at least a first programming choice for which episode-specific program summary information is available, a second programming choice for which no episode-specific program summary information is available but series-specific program summary information is available, and a third programming choice for which no episode-specific or series-specific program summary information is available but channel-specific program summary information is available;

accessing in response to the user selection indication the summary information relating to the programming selected by the viewer; and

displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming.

42. (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 31] In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video

display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying summary information chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available, comprising:

obtaining from the central control node programming summary information that relates to programming available to a viewer, the programming summary information including at least a plurality of images, each image being related to at least one of the available programming;

storing the programming summary information in a memory associated with the interactive station controller system;

obtaining an indication of programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide, wherein there are multiple programming choices available for selection, including at least a first programming choice for which episode-specific program summary information is available, a second programming choice for which no episode-specific program summary information is available but series-specific program summary information is available, and a third programming choice for which no episode-specific or series-specific program summary information is available but channel-specific program summary information is available;

retrieving from the memory the programming summary information corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide in response to the obtained indication, wherein the retrieved programming summary information is the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming; and

displaying the retrieved programming summary information for the viewer on a video display set.

43. (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 37] In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide listing programming available to a viewer, a method of displaying summary information at an individual user

station chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available, comprising:

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations programming information, the programming information including an identification of a plurality of programs currently available from the central control node and an identification of a plurality of future programs that will be available from the central control node at a future time;

storing the programming information at the plurality of viewer stations;

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations summary information, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;

storing the summary information at the plurality of viewer stations;

accessing and displaying the programming information at an individual user station in response to a request from a viewer of the individual user station to display the program guide;

obtaining a user selection at the individual user station, the user selection indicating a currently selected program within the program guide, wherein there are multiple programming choices available for selection, including at least a first programming choice for which episode-specific program summary information is available, a second programming choice for which no episode-specific program summary information is available but series-specific program summary information is available, and a third programming choice for which no episode-specific or series-specific program summary information is available but channel-specific program summary information is available;

in response to a user selection of a currently available program, displaying at the individual user station the currently available program simultaneously with the program guide; and

in response to a user selection of one of the at least one of the future programs, accessing and displaying at the individual user station the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming simultaneously with the program guide.